



# Annual REPORT

OF THE

*Medical Officer of Health*

FOR THE

Urban District of Soothill Upper,

FOR THE YEAR

— 1906. —



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### URBAN DISTRICT OF SOOTHILL UPPER,

For the Year 1906.

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*To the Sanitary Committee of the Soothill Upper Urban  
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my TWELTH ANNUAL REPORT on the Health, Sanitation, and Progress of the District.

The area of the District is 1,897 acres, and the population, at the last Census, was 6,104, but now, estimated on the basis of the number of inhabited houses in the middle of the year, at 6,976.

Number of inhabited houses.			Population.		
1891	1901	1906	1891	1901	1906
<u>1233</u>	<u>1329</u>	<u>1591</u>	<u>5848</u>	<u>6104</u>	<u>6976</u>

Increase since last Census in the number		
of inhabited houses	...	262
Increase in the population	...	872
Average to each house	...	4.385

The births for the year amounted to 175, 84 boys and 91 girls, giving a birth-rate of 25.0 per 1,000, against 22.3 for the preceding year, the average for the past ten years being 26.1. Five of the births were illegitimate, against five last year.

The deaths for the year amounted to 99; but to these are to be added 11 that took place in Institutions outside the area, viz.: Dewsbury Workhouse, 7, Dewsbury Infirmary, 1, Leeds Infirmary, 1, and at Blackpool, 2; so that the corrected deaths are 110, 53 males and 57 females, giving a death-rate of 15·7 per 1,000. The average for the past ten years 15·8.

#### AGES AT DEATH.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	26
1 year and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	12
5 „ „ 15 „	...	...	...	...	5
15 „ „ 25 „	...	...	...	...	6
25 „ „ 65 „	...	...	...	...	34
65 „ upwards	...	...	...	...	27
					<hr/> 110

The above Table shows that while 38 died under 5 years, 26 died under 1 year, which is equal to 148 per 1,000 of the children born, against 199 last year, and an average for ten years of 143; while last year the same number of persons died under 25 years as above it, viz.: 51, this year more have got into the higher numbers, viz.: 49 to 61, that is to say the average duration of life has been better this year, 13 ranging from 70 to 79 years.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR.

Measles	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœa	..	...	...	3
Enteritis	...	...	...	2
Congenital defects	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	2
Atrophy	...	...	...	2
Debility from birth	...	...	...	5
Convulsions	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1
Laryngismus Stridulus	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2
Other causes	...	...	...	1

Going more closely into these deaths, I find they took place at the following ages:—

Under 1 month	...	...	...	...	9
1 month and under 3 months	...	...	...	...	2
3    ,,            ,,    6    ,,            ,,	...	...	...	...	6
6    ,,            ,,    9    ,,            ,,	...	...	...	...	3
9    ,,            ,,    12    ,,            ,,	...	...	...	...	6
					<hr/> 26

That 9 died within the month shows that they were born very delicate; of the total, 26, 13 were boys and 13 girls; that two deaths were those of the illegitimate, a very large proportion indeed. Besides these 26 deaths, there were also registered 8 still-births during the year.

As in previous years, I made enquiries on the following points:—(1) Were they suckled? (2) Did the mothers go to work? (3) Was this the first child? I have been able to trace 24 out of the 26 with the following results:—

10 were suckled, 6 mothers went to work, therefore 18 stayed at home to nurse, and 1 suckled and went to work, 5 were first born, therefore 19 mothers had had previous experience.

These figures are not so good as last year, especially in suckling, and a rather large proportion go to work. But not suckling is not often the fault of the mother, the breasts may be ill-developed, or the mother may have been very ill, or the baby may be too delicate and weakly, in either case the milk is soon lost. There were three sets of twins, and they all died (one was still-born).

#### CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

Measles	...	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	7
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	7
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	2
Pulmonary Phthisis	...	...	...	...	7

Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	3
Cancer	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	6
Alcoholism	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	2
Parturition	...	...	...	1
Heart Disease	...	...	...	9
Accidents	...	...	...	4
Suicides	...	...	...	3
Senile Decay	...	...	...	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	10
Convulsions	...	...	...	3
Kidney Disease	...	...	...	3
Intestinal Obstruction	...	...	...	1
Hernia	...	...	...	1
All other causes	...	...	...	22
				—
				110

The deaths from Zymotic diseases are included under Measles, Whooping Cough, and Diarrhœa, and are equal to a rate of 2·58, against 2·34 for the past ten years. Phthisis death-rate 1·0 against 1·18, 1·8 and 1·07 in the three preceding years. Respiratory Diseases 1·57 against 3·1, 2·7 and 2·75 in the three preceding years.



## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1906.

1906.	England and Wales.	Great towns. (76).	Small towns (142).	England and Wales, less the 218 towns.	Soothill Upper
Birth-rate ...	27·0	27·9	26·5	26·3	25·0
Death-rate ...	15·4	15·9	14·5	15·1	15·7
Zymotic death- rate ...	1·73	2·24	1·71	1·18	2·5
Infantile Mor- tality (per 1,000 deaths	133	145	138	116	148

In these statistics Soothill Upper compares very unfavourably with England and Wales, or even with the small Towns.

## LOCALITIES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES REPORTED.

LOCALITY.				Typhoid.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Chicken Pox.	TOTAL.
Battye Street Top	...	...	...	1					1
Bromley Street	...	...	...		1	1			2
Bottom of Cutting	...	...	...	1					1
Common Side	...	...	...			5	1		6
Clutton Street	...	...	...			1			1
Chidswell	...	...	...			1		1	2
Grange Road	...	...	...			1	1		2
Hollinroyd Wood	...	...	...			1			1
High Street	...	...	...					1	1
Kirkgate	...	...	...		2		1		3
Lady Ann Road	...	...	...			2			2
Leeds Road	...	...	...			4			4
Mill Lane	...	...	...	1					1
Royd Street	...	...	...	1					1
Soothill Lane	...	...	...				1		1
Willow Terrace	...	...	...		1				1
TOTAL	...	...	...	4	4	16	4	2	30

During the year 30 cases of Infectious Diseases have been reported, against 117, 94, 48, and 26, in the four preceding years. There has been no epidemic in the reported cases, but in Measles and Whooping Cough there was an epidemic.

Scarlet Fever	16 cases	with 0 deaths.
Measles, not reported		„ 4 deaths.
Chicken Pox	2 cases	„ 0 deaths.
Diphtheria	4 cases	„ 0 deaths.
Enteric	4 cases	„ 0 deaths.
Erysipelas	4 cases	„ 0 deaths.
Diarrhoea, not reported		„ 7 deaths.
Whooping Cough, not reported		„ 7 deaths.

There was no case of Small Pox during the year, and vaccination has still further declined. Chicken Pox was rescinded during the year.

Scarlet Fever was heard of most of the year; most prevalent at Common Side, but at no time did it become epidemic, nor interfere much with school attendance. In no cases did milk producers or sellers become involved.

Diarrhoea and Enteric were not so numerous as formerly, and there was not a death from the latter, and three of the former occurred in infants under one year.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in the months of April and May, especially among the infants attending Gregory Street School. The attendance was reduced to a half, and I recommended my Council to close that School for a fortnight.

Measles was prevalent throughout the District in the month of October; perhaps most marked at Mill Lane and Shaw Cross Schools, but as the attendance seemed to come up soon, and the type not very severe, it was not considered necessary to close any of the Schools.

Nineteen nuisances were abated during the year; in three cases notices were served for the abatement of the same, and seven on hand at the close of the year. 70yds of sewers of 12in. pipes laid during the year, but there is still a part of the District



from Grange Road to Hey Beck without a main sewer. Complaints were made to me in that district, and I visited some of the houses and the sumps to which they are drained.

### **Factory and Workshop Act.**

There are twenty-six factories and thirty workshops in the district. These have been visited from time to time and found in a sanitary condition. Dust bins have been provided in some cases which are an improvement on the ash pits. The conveniences are ample, with one exception, which is in hand.

There are no domestic workshops, and no home work is given out.

53 houses have been built during the year. Some of them are terrace houses, and most of them are through houses with a bath and W.C., but the rooms are small, to keep them within a certain rent. 63 water closets have been erected during the year; this is a great increase, and is a step in the right direction. There is no overcrowding, and no houses unfit for human habitation.

The Joint Hospital was made use of in seven of the infectious cases, six Scarlet Fever and one Enteric.

The water supply has been good and continuous, and no case of lead poisoning has been brought under my notice. Ptomaine or arsenical poisoning has not been found.

The slaughter-houses have been fairly kept, they are swilled out and prepared for the next arrival.

### **Dairies, Milkshops, Cowsheds.**

There are no dairies in this district; neither are there any milkshops. The milk is produced, carted away and distributed to the surrounding towns and villages.

There are 29 cowsheds in the district, some of them only for home use. They are in a fairly sanitary condition as regards whitewashing, light, and drainage, and would be considered good enough for animals if it were not for their ultimate use, viz.: the production of pure milk. More bedding ought to be used, and better grooming of the Cows.



The cowsheds here may be divided into three classes :—

1st—Those of insufficient air space and insufficient ventilation.

2nd—Sufficient air space but ventilation deficient.

3rd—Air space and ventilation ample.

The 1st class is rare.

In class 2 the means of ventilation may be present, but the cowkeepers have an idea that by keeping them warm they will produce more milk.

During the year short rules were issued by the County Medical Officer for the guidance of milk producers, as to the cleanliness of the sheds, cows, milkers and utensils. These have been put in the hands of every cowkeeper.

Phthisis death-rate has been rather below the average this year. Disinfection has been carried out as usual, and the clothes and bedding brought to the Steam Disinfector when available.

Infantile mortality is still engaging much attention. Last year I put forward heredity, and I still think it is a factor. From a wide experience in both private and hospital practice, I am convinced that venereal disease is prevalent in the West Riding. No one will dispute that it is a cause of premature births, no one will dispute that it is a cause of still-births, and no one will dispute that such babies, if they survive at all, are reared with the greatest difficulty. This disease is therefore a factor both in the death-rate and in the birth-rate. I wonder whether Dr. Kaye had this in his mind at the Conference in London last Summer on Infantile Mortality—"With regard to premature births it was significant that the death-rate from this cause did not begin to increase until the general birth-rate had begun to decline, and since then the two movements had been inversely proportional." This meditation does not refer to this district, as no death has been put down to this cause. In former years I have said "I have no remedy to offer for infantile mortality but sanitation," but this year I would add Purity.



In conclusion, the death-rate is higher than last year, but the birth-rate is higher also; and the population grows from the influx from neighbouring townships, as well as the additional births over deaths.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**ROBERT BEATTIE, M.D.,**

Medical Officer of Health.

Dewsbury,

26th March, 1907.



TABLE 1.  
SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*
1896	6170	199	32.2	25	125	113	18.3
1897	6248	180	28.8	31	172	107	17.1
1898	6327	157	24.8	21	133	113	17.8
1899	6408	158	24.6	16	101	80	12.4
1900	6489	166	25.8	18	108	95	14.7
1901	6103	159	26	25	157	98	16
1902	6336	166	26.2	23	138	88	13.8
1903	6542	170	25.9	19	112	97	14.8
1904	6647	167	25.1	31	185	121	18.2
1905	6766	151	22.3	30	199	102	15
Averages for years 1896-1905.	6403	167	26.17	24	143	101	15.8
1906	6976	175	25.0	26	148	110	15.7

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population. Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 1897.  
Total population at all ages .. 6 104 }  
Number of inhabited houses .. 1,329 } At Census of 1901.  
Average number of persons per house .. 4.385 }

TABLE 2.  
SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1896	...	199	113	25
1897	...	180	107	31
1898	...	157	113	21
1899	...	158	80	16
1900	...	166	95	18
1901	...	159	98	25
1902	...	166	88	23
1903	...	170	97	19
1904	...	167	121	31
1905	...	151	102	30
Averages of Years 1896 to 1905 }	6403	167	101	24
1906	...	175	110	26



TABLE 3.  
SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1906.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox ...								
Cholera ...								
Diphtheria ...	4	1	1	1	1			
Membranous croup..								
Erysipelas ...	4					4		
Scarlet fever ...	16	4	10	2				6
Typhus fever ...								
Enteric fever ...	4		1	1	2			1
Relapsing fever ...								
Continued fever ...								
Puerperal fever ...								
Plague ...	2	1	1					
Chicken Pox ...								
Totals...	30	6	13	4	7			7

Isolation Hospital—Dewsbury Conjoint Hospital.

# TABLE 4.

## Soothill Upper Urban District Council.

Causes of, and ages at, Death during Year 1906.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in District.
	All ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox ... ..								
Measles ... ..	4	2	1	1				
Scarlet Fever ... ..								
Whooping-cough ... ..	7	2	5					
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup...								
Epidemic Influenza ... ..	1					1		
Diarrhœa ... ..	7	3				1	3	
Enteritis ... ..	2	2						
Puerperal Fever ... ..								
Erysipelas ... ..								
Other Septic Diseases ... ..								
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuber- culosis ... ..	7			1	1	2	3	
Other Tubercular Diseases ... ..	3		1	1	1			
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	3					2	1	
Bronchitis ... ..	5	1	1		1	2		
Pneumonia... ..	6	2	2			1	1	
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ... ..								
Alcoholism ... ..	1					1		
Cirrhosis of Liver } ... ..								
Venereal Diseases ... ..								
Premature Birth ... ..	2	2						
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ... ..	1					1		
Heart Diseases ... ..	9			1	1	4	3	
Accidents ... ..	4				1	3		
Suicides ... ..	3				1	2		
Senile Decay ... ..	5						5	
Cerebral Hemorrhage .. ..	10					7	3	
Convulsions ... ..	3	1	2					
Kidney Disease ... ..	3					2	1	
Intestinal Obstruction ... ..	1						1	
Hernia ... ..	1						1	
All other causes ... ..	22	11		1		5	5	
All causes ... ..	110	26	12	5	6	34	27	



TABLE 5.  
SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
*Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906.*

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Measles ...						1						1		1			2
Whooping Cough ...															1		2
Diarrhoea, all forms								1	1				1				3
Enteritis ...									1							1	2
Premature Birth ...	1	1			2			1									2
Congenital Defects ...																	1
Atrophy, Debility, } Marasmus			2		2												2
Debility from Birth ...	2			1	3	1			1								5
Convulsions ...		1			1										1		1
Bronchitis ...								1									1
Laryngismus Stridulus													1				2
Pneumonia ...				1	1										1		2
Other Causes ...																	1
	3	2	2	2	9	2		3	3			1	2	1	3	2	26

Population (estimated to middle of 1906) 6,976.

Births in the year	}	Legitimate 170,	Deaths in the year of	}	Legitimate infants 24,
		Illegitimate 5.			Illegitimate infants 2.
		Deaths from all Causes at all ages 110.			

TABLE 6.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SUMMARY OF WORK in the Sanitary Department for the year ended December 31st, 1906.

Defects in water pipes and fittings found and notices served.	Length of Sewers laid.	Private Drains laid and connections to sewers.	Sink waste pipes disconnected from house drains.	Nuisances abated.	Notices served for abatement of Nuisances.	Prosecutions.	Nuisances in hand at close of year.	New Houses erected.	New privies in connection with new houses.	New W.C.'s provided.	Additional privy accommodation to existing dwellings.	Privies reconstructed.	Ashpits reconstructed.	Loads of refuse removed from Ashpits.	Average times each ashpit emptied
10	70 yds. 12in. pipe.	23	Nil.	19	3	Nil.	7	53	Nil.	63	2	19	10	3263	6.97

Shaw Cross,

Dewsbury,

February 27th, 1907.

JNO. BLACKBURN,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.



